

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are pending herein. The amendment to claim 1 is supported by Fig. 1 of the present application, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

1. Claims 1-8 and 13-20 were rejected under §102(b) over Müller. To the extent this rejection may be applied against amended claim 1, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that no part of the heating element is supported by the gas detecting section of the gas sensor. Müller discloses a gas sensor that includes a gas detecting section and a heater section. Referring to Fig. 5 of Müller, the gas detection section includes an oxygen ion conducting solid electrolyte body 43 with a measuring electrode 44 on one side and a reference electrode 46 on the opposite side. As shown in Fig. 5, at least the heater conductive tracks 54 and 54/1 are supported by the solid electrolyte body 43, which is the main component of the gas detecting section. In contrast, as shown in Fig. 1 of the pending application, no part of the heating element 3 is supported by the gas detecting section 2 of the gas sensor. Thus, the structure of the gas sensor of amended claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by Müller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

2. Claims 9-12 were rejected under §103(a) over Müller in view of Haecker. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

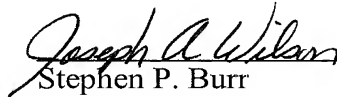
Applicants respectfully submit that Haecker fails to overcome the deficiencies of Müller. As such, and since claims 9-12 ultimately depend from claim 1, they are in condition for allowance for the same reasons explained with respect to claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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